



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
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Library systems share \$15 million in state aid

MADISON—Wisconsin's 17 federated public library systems received the first of two state aid payments for 2006, totaling nearly \$15 million, to support cooperative local, regional, and state efforts to share library resources and improve public library service statewide.

"Public libraries are the cornerstone of our democracy and an important component in the engine of economic development," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster in announcing the aid payments. "Individuals can seek out the knowledge of the ages through the state's vast library holdings and libraries serve as a primary information source for small businesses, job seekers, and personal investors."

State aid to public library systems for 2006 operations totals \$14,908,600 and is the primary state program supporting public library service statewide. All of the state's 387 independent public libraries are members of a public library system. The library systems assure that all Wisconsin residents have access to library services and help libraries provide higher levels of service while avoiding unnecessary service duplication. Each system's regional board develops plans for using funds to meet system needs. Across the state, library system services include:

- Ensuring that system residents have complete access to all public libraries within the system area. State residents made 31.8 million visits to public libraries and checked out nearly 57 million items last year.
- Coordinating the loan of library materials among participating libraries to meet user needs. Annually, 4.8 million items are sent from one public library to another library in response to users' requests and are delivered by system-supported delivery networks.
- Providing training and continuing education for local library staff to help them provide the best possible service to their communities.
- Coordinating cooperative library technology projects. More than 80 percent of the state's public libraries now participate in shared computer systems, and all libraries provide public access to computers with Internet connections.

(more)

Burmaster thanked Gov. Jim Doyle and the Legislature for approving funding for library system aid. “State aid helps public libraries provide the free access to knowledge, information, and the diversity of ideas that is essential to a democratic society,” she said. “Wisconsin residents are fortunate to have a strong network of public libraries served by public library and library system staff members and lead by library trustees who are dedicated to providing every resident of the state with the best possible library service.”

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2006 State Aid to Public Library Systems

System	Amount
Arrowhead Library System <i>Rock County</i>	\$435,552
Eastern Shores Library System <i>Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties</i>	\$574,518
Indianhead Federated Library System <i>Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, and St. Croix counties</i>	\$1,117,283
Kenosha County Library System	\$395,902
Lakeshores Library System <i>Racine and Walworth counties</i>	\$633,277
Manitowoc-Calumet County Federated Library System <i>Calumet and Manitowoc counties</i>	\$309,940
Mid-Wisconsin Federated Library System <i>Dodge, Jefferson, and Washington counties</i>	\$749,170
Milwaukee County Federated Library System	\$2,658,371
Nicolet Federated Library System <i>Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, and Shawano counties</i>	\$1,061,969
Northern Waters Library Service <i>Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Sawyer, Vilas, and Washburn counties</i>	\$525,422
Outagamie-Waupaca Library System <i>Outagamie and Waupaca counties</i>	\$603,286
South Central Library System <i>Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Portage, Sauk, and Wood counties</i>	\$2,043,046
Southwest Wisconsin Library System <i>Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, and Richland counties</i>	\$360,812
Waukesha County Federated Library System	\$951,963
Winding Rivers Library System <i>Buffalo, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, and Vernon counties</i>	\$762,357
Winnefox Federated Library System <i>Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, and Winnebago counties</i>	\$879,718
Wisconsin Valley Library Service <i>Clark, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, and Taylor counties</i>	\$846,014
TOTAL	\$14,908,600